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○ ISSUE 3 | ○ VOLUME 7

Community *notes*

Greetings

This week's newsletter highlights a few events that are fun for the entire family. Enjoy another great summer weekend!

Manykay

Columbia Association Summer Festival

The [Lakefront Summer Festival](#) is sponsored by Columbia Association and held on the lawn at the Downtown Columbia Lakefront (10221 Wincopin Circle, Columbia). Admission is free and so is parking. Click [here](#) for additional events. For more information, please call 410-715-3127.

Dancing Under the People Tree

Every Friday until September 9th, free dance classes with music are held under the People Tree at the Downtown Columbia

Lakefront from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Tatia Zack gives instruction that's fun for all. Stay after the dance for the Lakefront Movie Night. Dancing and a movie – what a great way to start the weekend!



Lakefront Movie Night

The Columbia Association welcomes you to its weekly free movie night. On Friday, July 22, from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m., the drama continues in "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay II" (PG-13). In this installment, the series comes to a conclusion that finds Katniss Everdeen staking her claim as the leader of District 13 and commanding the revolution against President Snow and the Capitol.



Kids' Events at Robinson Nature Center

There are many opportunities for family fun and learning at the [Robinson Nature Center](#) at 6692 Cedar Lane in Columbia.

Lil' Stars

Saturday, July 23, 11:00—11:30 a.m.

July's theme is 'Animals in the Moon.' Let your little one discover outer space through views of the stars and planets, stories and song. [Preregister](#) to secure your seats. Tickets are \$3.00 per person, plus the regular price of admission. For more information, call 410-313-0400.

Summer Wednesday Full Dome Movies

Wednesday, July 27, 10:00—10:30 a.m.

Kids ages three years and up can see a popular full dome movie in the planetarium. This program features the full-dome movie "Little Star that Could." Tickets are \$2.00 [preregistered](#) or \$3.00 at the gate. Please arrive early to be seated. There is no late seating.

Summer Sounds Family Campfire

Saturday, July 30, 8:00—9:30 p.m.

Participants ages seven and up can use echo locators to hear the inaudible signals that bats use to locate their prey. Afterwards, get cozy while roasting marshmallows over the campfire to the accompaniment of live music. Singing and dancing are welcome! [Tickets](#) are \$8.00 per person.

Fundraising Fraud Alert

The Howard County [Office of Consumer Protection](#) urges residents to use caution and common sense when dealing with solicitors who claim to represent police associations or others seeking donations. It is important to take the time to check where your generosity is going regardless of the cause.

The Office of Consumer Protection offers these tips:

- Take your time. Be wary of high pressure tactics and requests that donations be paid in cash, by pre-paid gift or debit cards or by wire transfer.
- Make sure you are giving your donation to a legitimate organization. Con artists sometimes use names that are similar to well-known organizations. Ask for written information about the group's mission and history or do some independent research.
- Make sure the organization is registered. In Maryland, non-profit fundraisers must register with the Office of the Secretary of State (SOS) before asking for donations. The SOS' [website](#) enables you to see if the organization is registered.
- Ask whether the person calling represents the charity or a professional fundraiser and find out what percentage of your donation will be used for "administrative costs" or "overhead." Sending your donation directly to the organization instead of the fundraiser can help maximize the impact of your gift.
- Check on the charity's reputation using sites like Charity Navigator and [GiveWell.org](#), which rank charities based on efficiency, transparency and accountability.
- Ask how any information you provide will be used. Many organizations continue to contact donors after a donation and may sell or rent your contact information to other organizations. If you are frequently contacted by organizations you do not wish to donate to, ask them to put your name on a "Do Not Call" list.

Silly Goose & Val at the Farm



Silly Goose & Val are coming to [Clark's Elioak Farm](#) for a day of fun. At 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 23, the award-winning artist will present an energetic song-filled performance with a magical array of puppets, bold-voice talents and contagious dances that will surely get you and your little ones up, moving and

laughing together. Attendees will also have the opportunity to participate in a videotaped performance of Val's "Love Bug!" dance. The farm is located at 10500 Clarksville Pike in Ellicott City. Petting farm admission is \$6.00 per person.

Animal Craft Safari

Join the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore (1876 Mansion House Drive Baltimore, MD 21217) on Sunday, July 31 at 11:00 to 11:45 a.m. for [Snake Craft!](#) Using recycled materials, create a camouflaged constrictor or venomous viper while learning about the Zoo's fabulous selection of serpents. The materials fee is \$5.00, not including the cost of admission. [Register](#) by close of business, Monday, July 27.

Find Your Park

Howard County has an abundance of beautiful natural resources open for public use. The Department of Recreation & Parks invites you to discover eight local parks this summer to win prizes and spend quality time outdoors on your own, with friends or with your family. To participate, all you need to get started is to pick up a "[Find Your Park](#)" booklet that will allow you to document your adventure and become eligible for prizes.



Booklets are available at Sunset Serenades Concerts, the Robinson Nature Center, and REI (the Columbia store). Each of the eight parks included in the booklet contain a special "Find Your Park" post with a rubbing plate that you can use to document your visits to the parks. Any person that visits all eight parks and turns in their booklet receives a prize bag, and is entered into a drawing to win a grand prize. Though you only need to find the eight posts to be eligible for prizes, each park also holds an additional optional adventure you can take. During the month of September 2016, bring your completed booklets to Robinson Nature Center (6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia) during their business hours. Ready? Set? Hike!

Summer Madness Celebration & Expo

Head over to the Howard County Fairgrounds (2210 Fairgrounds Road, West Friendship) on Saturday, July 23 from noon to 6:00 p.m. for the Summer Madness Celebration & Expo. This free, family friendly community event was designed to celebrate all the joys of summer. Admission is free, but [registration](#) is recommended.

- Thumbs Up Party Planning has face painting, glitter tattoos and games for the kids
- Kelsey's Klostet hosts a fashion show featuring styles from her shop in Laurel, MD
- Branching Knowledge provides an archery game center
- Live demonstrations for yoga and more

The organizers are still actively looking for vendors, sponsors, and performers. If you'd like to participate, contact Tya Bolton at 877-410-3249, ext. 201 or by [email](#).

National Night Out

Join family, friends and neighbors for the 33rd annual [National Night Out](#), celebrated for the 5th year at the County's Department of Recreation & Parks' North Laurel Community Center (9411 Whiskey Bottom Road, Laurel). The evening is designed to heighten awareness of crime and drug prevention, generate support for local anti-crime programs and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. Enjoy a live concert, Howard County Police displays and more! The event takes place on Tuesday, August 2 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. For more information, call 410-313-0390.

Music and Movement at the Walters



Every weekend, the [Walters Art Museum](#) studio (600 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21201) is open for visitors to create artful projects related to the collection and special exhibitions. What do colors

sounds like? Find out as guests fill the studio with music and rhythm and move to the beat of the collection. No registration required—drop in, make art, and take a fantastic work of art home with you. Upcoming themes include Paint the Rhythm on Saturday and Sunday, July 23 and 24, and Sing a Story on the following weekend.

A-OK Mentoring Opportunity

[A-OK](#) (Assist Our Kids) Mentoring-Tutoring, Inc. is actively seeking adult volunteers to mentor and tutor students in local Howard County schools for the next school year. Learn more about AOK's volunteer opportunities at an Information Session on Wednesday, August 10 at 1:00 p.m. The session is held at The Hawthorn Center (6175 Sunny Spring, Columbia). Sign up via [email](#) or [online](#).

Teen Open Mic

Next Tuesday, July 26, will be the last teen open mic night of the summer. Here's a chance for teens to share their talent and perform at the [Lakefront](#) (10221 Wincopin Circle, Columbia) in front of family, friends, and the community at large. Sign up starts at 6:45 p.m. on a first come first served basis. No bands with drum sets. The music runs from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. For more information, please [email](#) the Columbia Association. This free concert takes place in partnership with Collision Music.

Farmers Market

Are you looking for fresh, local produce? Look no further than your [Howard County Farmers Markets](#)! Head over to Howard County General Hospital (5755 Cedar Lane, Columbia) any Friday through October 28, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Browse through wholesome fruits and vegetables from Pong's Orchard, TLV Tree Farm, and more!

Upcoming Events

Ellicott City Summer Fit Camp

Saturday, July 23, 7:30—8:30 a.m.

Thomas Isaac Log Cabin

8394 Main Street

Ellicott City, 21043

Join Personal Wellness Coach, Filiz McNamara, for a free [summer fit camp](#) located behind the Thomas Isaac Log Cabin. Hourly sessions are available on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 7:30 a.m. until Wednesday, August 24. For more information, contact Filiz at 210 316-2488 or by [email](#).

The Wine Bin Summer Movies: Raising Arizona

Saturday, July 23, 9:00 p.m.

The Wine Bin

8390 Main Street

Ellicott City, MD 21043

The Wine Bin's free outdoor [summer movies](#) run Saturday nights through September. The Bin offers a wine tasting before each movie. Bring a chair and a picnic. The Bin offers popcorn and bottled water to benefit Voices for Children of Howard County. For more information, contact the Bin at 410 -465-7802 or by [email](#).

Free Family Sunday: Mobile Living

Sunday, July 24, 2:00—5:00 p.m.

Baltimore Museum of Art

10 Art Museum Drive

Baltimore, MD 21218

Create Maasai dolls at this upcoming free [event](#). Join the BMA every Sunday for activities the entire family can enjoy. Explore your creative side with active hands-on art-making workshops in response to works on view.

Coffee with a Cop

Thursday, August 4, 9:00—11:00 a.m.

Chick-fil-A

10975 Johns Hopkins Road

Laurel, MD 20723

[Coffee with a Cop](#) offers the community an opportunity to meet face-to-face with police personnel in a neutral environment to ask questions, voice concerns and get to know our officers. For more information, please contact the Police Department Community Outreach Division at 410-313-2207.



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